

**MINUTES**  
**SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL**  
**OCTOBER 30, 2007**  
**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA**

**PATTY GILBERTSON**  
**CHAIR**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ken Batten, *Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services*  
Joe Battle, *Consumer/Advocate*  
Terri-Ann Brown, *Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation*  
JoAnn Burkholder, *Department of Education*  
Curtis Coleburn, *Department of Alcoholic Beverage and Control*  
Patty Gilbertson, *Virginia Drug Court Association*  
Wallace "Bo" G. Harris, *Department of Social Services*  
Jennifer Johnson, *Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors*  
Sandy Kanehl, *Virginia Association of Drug Abuse Programs*  
James May, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards*  
Hope Merrick, *Governor's Office on Substance Abuse Prevention*  
David Mosely, *Department of Motor Vehicles*  
Scott Reiner, *Department of Juvenile Justice*  
Rudi Schuster, *Department of Criminal Justice Services*  
Freddie Simon, *Virginia Community Services Boards/Prevention Council*  
Jennie Springs Amison, *Substance Abuse Certification Alliance of Virginia*  
Inge Tracy, *Department of Corrections*  
Charles Walsh, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards*  
William Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/Treatment*

**GUESTS:**

Mark Blackwell, *Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance*  
Larry Bryan, *Substance Abuse Certification Alliance of Virginia*

**GUEST PRESENTERS :**

Joan Corder-Mabe, *Director, Division of Women's and Infants' Health Office of Family Health Services, Virginia Department of Health*  
Nathalie Molliet-Ribet, *the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC)*

**STAFF:**

Lynette Bowser, *DMHMRSAS*  
Mellie Randall, *DMHMRSAS*  
Julie Truitt, *DMHMRSAS*

## **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Because the Chair had called to say she would be late due to traffic and the Vice-Chair was not present, Mellie Randall called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves.

The Chair arrived at the meeting at 10:30 and thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked Ms. Randall for starting the meeting in her absence.

## **II. JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMISSION STUDY:** Ms. Randall introduced Nathalie Molliet-Ribet from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC). Ms. Molliet-Ribet is leading the JLARC studies responding to HJR 683 and SJR 395 (both 2007 Session) and provided the Council a brief overview of JLARC and the study process.

Ms. Molliet-Ribet summarized HJR 683 and SJR 395:

- Study the impact of substance abuse on State and local budgets.
- Determine savings that could be achieved through enhanced substance abuse services
- Recommend funding initiatives needed to provide adequate services to Virginians who need them.

HJR 683 focuses on offender population and SJR 395 considers all Virginians. She discussed the study issues and the research activities that have been completed to date as well as future research activities for the study, including visiting ten community services boards (CSBs) and the probation and parole offices in districts served by those CSBs. JLARC will be providing an interim briefing on December 10, 2007 at 10 a.m. in Senate Room A of the General Assembly Building. The final briefing and report will be complete in June 2008. The briefings will be open to the public.

Council members offered the following suggestions regarding the study:

- In reference to cost, Dr. May suggested that JLARC collect information from emergency rooms and trauma care centers, and talk to staff of local health department infectious disease clinics about the extent to which their patient care demands are related to people with substance use disorders.
- Mr. Simon suggested looking at societal costs of underage drinking, and offered to provide data on this issue. He also encouraged JLARC to consider how prevention resources could be allocated to reduce related costs including treatment.
- Ms. Jennifer Johnson suggested that JLARC include private non-profit and the private for profit providers in the state.
- When surveying services and existing providers, Mr. Batten stated that DMHMRSAS could provide the group with a list of all licensed providers in the state that include private and public providers.

- Council members also suggested that JLARC survey programs that treat co-occurring disorders, veteran centers and VA hospitals, and study the impact of substance abuse on child protective services and foster care by obtaining information from local social services and the Department of Education.

The Chair thanked Ms. Molliet-Ribet for the opportunity to dialog about the JLARC process and current legislative studies.

### **III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2007 MEETING**

Minutes were reviewed. Scott Reiner asked that a correction be made to the name of his agency by striking the word “Services” from the name. Bo Harris made a motion that the minutes be approved with one correction and Scott Reiner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**JUDICIAL TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE:** While awaiting the Chair’s arrival, Ms. Randall informed the Council that Patty Gilbertson, Joe Battle, and she presented at the Judicial Transportation Conference in Virginia Beach in August. They provided an overview of substance use services in the state, access to services and the role of the Council. She reported that their presentation was well received.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

**INFANT MORTALITY PRESENTATION:** The Chair stated that members of the Council (Ms. Gilbertson, Ms. Randall, Mr. Batten and Mr. Williams) met with Secretary Tavenner, who was very complimentary of the Council’s work. Secretary Tavenner indicated an interest in remaining informed of the Council’s continued work, and indicated that she is particularly interested in the impact of substance abuse on infant mortality. In an effort to address this issue, the Chair suggested the Council address this issue in its 2007 Annual Report and Plan. To this end, Ms. Gilbertson had already requested that staff assemble a meeting with staff from the Virginia Department of Health and Mr. Harris (DSS), as well as DMHMRSAS staff knowledgeable about services to pregnant women. This group met on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to share data and information about existing policies, programs and services. As a result, staff drafted a section about the impact of substance abuse on infant mortality and recommendations for the Annual Report, which was presented for review, and requested that Ms. Joan Corder-Mabe, Director, *Division of Women's and Infants' Health Office of Family Health Services Virginia Department of Health* makes a presentation to the Council.

Ms. Corder-Mabe indicated that the rate of infant mortality for the Commonwealth has been higher than the national average for a period of years, and that there have been multiple attempts to address it. Infant mortality rate is measured by the number of live birth babies that die during the first year of life and is used to measure the health and well

being of populations across and within countries. VDH, DSS, DMHMRSAS and DMAS have been working closely on this issue for some time. One of the subcommittees of the Governor's Commission on Healthcare Reform focused on this issue, and one of VDH's performance measures from the Governor's office is to reduce the rate of infant mortality.

Ms. Corder-Mabe stated that the three top causes of infant mortality in our state are pre-mature delivery, birth defects and sudden unexplained infant death. She explained how substance use contributes to those causes.

The VDH has received several small grants to evaluate the issue of perinatal depression which has lead to an examination of substance use. This was a catalyst for addressing this issue. VDH is also concerned about the interrelated issue of domestic violence and infant mortality, and the connection between domestic violence, substance abuse and depression. Over the last few years an informal group has been discussing how to appropriately screen for the complex issues of domestic violence, drug use and perinatal depression among pregnant women. VDH would like to have more primary care physicians to conduct screenings for domestic violence, depression (and other mental illnesses) and substance use disorders.

Studies indicate that maternal substance use definitely contributes to the lack of prenatal care or prenatal care accessed late in the pregnancy. VDH is also evaluating the correlation between screening for drug use and skin color and research indicates that physicians are biased to screen women of color. In Virginia, there is also a higher prevalence of infant mortality among African-American babies as compared to Caucasian babies.

In response to a question concerning the infant mortality rate last year, Ms. Corder-Mabe stated that there were 777 infant mortalities in the state last year. This number does not include miscarriage or fetal death.

The Chair thanked Ms. Corder-Mabe for her infant mortality presentation.

**A. REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE 2007 REPORT AND PLAN:** Council members were provided with a draft of the 2007 Annual Report and Plan. Ms. Randall discussed the recommendations

- that the General Assembly appropriate \$100,000 to annually support and staff the Council. The funds would provide reimbursement for staff salary and benefits, travel, etc. Presently, the support of the Council is all funded out of the administrative portion of the SAPT Block Grant;
- that the edits discussed at the last meeting for the vision statement of the Council have been incorporated;
- that Appendix E contains the results of the survey of agencies conducted by the Council;
- Staff will e-mail members the report on outcome measures previously submitted to the General Assembly (October 1); and
- the addition of the section on infant mortality and draft recommendations on this issue.

Discussion:

Mr. Rudi Schuster recommended that Council include in the report a recommendation regarding incremental capacity building funding. Ms. Randall stated that DMHMRSAS's Inspector General reviewed outpatient services and issued a report. The OSAS collaborated with some Council members to develop a response that was included in the Council's packet today. Ms. Randall suggested that an option would be to integrate the text of the response into the Council's report, because this very much speaks to capacity. Council decided not to include this recommendation in this report at this particular time, but to wait for JLARC's report, gather some more data and research and include in the next report (2008).

A discussion ensued in reference to the failed 2006 legislation recommendation on underage drinking. Council discussed the incorporation of a recommendation for underage drinking in the 2007 Report and Plan.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Rudi Schuster to re-include the original language and recommendation from last year's report regarding underage drinking along with the recommendation for the requested funding. The motion was seconded and approved.

Staff will amend the 2007 report and e-mail a draft to Council members for review and approval. After comments and approvals are received the report will be finalized and forwarded to Secretary Tavenner.

**B. DISCUSSION OF FEDERAL ELIMINATION OF FUNDING FOR HIV SERVICES:** Mr. Batten informed the group that DMHMRSAS was notified by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment that Virginia is no longer

considered an HIV-designated state for the FFY'08, as a result the state is prohibited from using the SAPT Block Grant to fund HIV early intervention services (EIS). Therefore effective July 1, 2008 DMHMRSAS will no longer fund HIV early intervention services for the CSBs. Those funds will be retained by DMHMRSAS and reallocated to support other initiatives beginning next fiscal year. This is a reduction of approximately \$2.5 million and will impact 22 CSBs. The CSBs have been advised of this information and DMHMRSAS will meet with those CSBs to determine how to collaboratively augment resources and strategize on other initiatives.

Council discussed the impact of this funding reduction on the system and also the high concentration of HIV in areas of the state that will be greatly affected by this initiative. There was discussion that Council request state general fund dollars from the General Assembly to cover the SAPT block grant reduction.

#### Discussion of report:

Mr. Scott Reiner presented for discussion a suggested amendment to recommendations in the 2007 Council report. Mr. Reiner indicated that given that there is \$2 million of available funds from the SAPT-BG that cannot be utilized for HIV-AIDS outreach services that these funds should be redirected, instead of requesting new funds from the General Assembly, to fund the recommendation to support increased access to treatment for pregnant women through case management using the Project LINK model.

Mr. Will Williams presented that current capacity for providing Substance Use Disorder services is seriously under-funded as a result of cuts during previous years. There are significant gaps in treatment services along the continuum care. In addition as available resources are depleted they are often not replaced with additional funding.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Reiner to amend the current Council recommendation to fund the expansion of the Project LINK model. The suggested amendment is to request that DMHMRSAS utilize the 5% from the SAPT BG that cannot be used for HIV outreach services, to be utilized to fund the expansion of the Project LINK model. With there being no second, the motion failed.

**MOTION:** Dr. Jim May made a motion to develop a budget amendment requesting state general funds to replace the funding lost from the SAPT BG initiative for HIV EIS services for the 23 designated boards. Mr.

Simon's seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mr. Batten opposing.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Amend the previous motion requesting state general funds to specify that these are new dollars, not reallocated dollars. Motion made by Mr. Batten and seconded by Dr. May. Motion carried.

Council entertained discussion in reference to amending the annual report to add a section on the most up to date information on HIV/AIDS issues in the state and the funding information.

**MOTION:** Dr. May made a motion to amend the 2007 annual report to include a section providing the most up to date information on HIV/AIDS and infectious disease funding statewide. Mr. Reiner seconded motion. The motion was carried.

The Chair appointed Dr. May, Mr. Simons, Mr. Williams, Mr. Mark Blackwell and Mr. Schuster to work with her and Council staff to craft the informational piece that will be added to the 2007 annual report as well as development of budget request.

The Council has suggested the crafting and delivery of a letter to SAMHSA/CSAT describing the disparity between persons of color and specific geographic regions of Virginia and overall Statewide HIV/AIDS rates that are at or above the 10 percent per 100,000 cut off rates.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Mr. Rudi Schuster stated that he wanted to discuss with Council the lack of alternatives to incarceration for the substance using population. DOC's research section projects the amount of growth in the criminal justice system through an indicator of the number of jails and prisons being built and the growth of the prison population. The population was under 100,000 in 2000, is currently over 127,000 and the projection through 2012 is an increase of over 145,000. There are current discussions associated with the institutionalization of the mentally ill, but there is little dialog about the institutionalization of the substance user. The criminal justice system by default has become the treatment center for persons with substance use disorders. Virginia has not developed an alternative that provides treatment, and this population continues to grow as will the need for services unless an alternative is identified.

A suggestion was made that Council include a comment about this issue in its next annual report, as well as take a more comprehensive look at the trend of providing treatment in the criminal justice system. It was further recommended that this issue becomes part of the Council's work plan for next year.

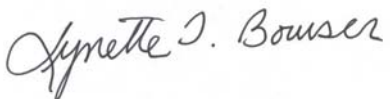
- Mr. Curtis Coleburn provided Council with a brochure developed by ABC on the impact of alcohol abuse and misuse in the elderly population. He stated that there is an established Alcohol and Aging Awareness group, which includes agencies that are involved with issues involving alcohol abuse and the elderly. The group has been working on issues involving alcohol and the aging, misuse of alcohol, and alcohol and interaction with prescription drugs. The group has completed data analysis, collaboration and discovered a lot of information. They are developing a long-term plan towards training physicians and other service providers to address issues involving the aging and alcohol. The group will be looking for some support beyond the ABC and will addressing the Council in preparation of the 2008 Report and Plan.
- Ms. Jennifer Johnson informed Council of a documentary being produced by the Mennonite Media on families in recovery. The documentary will include two Virginia families and will be featured on the Hall Mark Channel on November 2, 2007

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The Chair stated that the next meeting of the Council would be scheduled sometime after the conclusion of the General Assembly session. Staff will inform Council of date and place.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. Batten and seconded by Mr. Schuster to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Lynette T. Bowser